



March 25, 2025

Senator Jeff Golden  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources & Wildfire  
Oregon State Senate  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Golden:

On behalf of the Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby ("UFED"), I am writing to express our strong support for SB 512 regarding Rock Creek Hatchery and to urge its swift passage by the Committee.

UFED is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving fish habitat and education in the Umpqua Basin. The organization has contributed more than \$2 million in matching funds toward hundreds of projects over the past thirty years, including significant investments at Rock Creek Hatchery.

UFED strongly supports the base SB 512 legislation to continue operations at Rock Creek Hatchery. We understand that the "-2" amendment aligns the bill with the legislative parameters for an emergency designation. It is also our understanding that the study components of the bill, if enacted, would be carried out concurrent with active hatchery operations.

There is resounding public support for Rock Creek Hatchery. At the request of Douglas County, ODFW recently hosted a town hall meeting in Roseburg to discuss its hatchery resilience study mandated by the Oregon State Legislature. UFED is encouraged by ODFW's proposed reconfiguration of Umpqua Basin hatchery operations to produce fish in their home waters wherever possible, which will reduce stray rates and improve survivability. The study components of SB 512 can complement this new approach, as well as existing ODFW efforts to monitor spring chinook in the North Umpqua River.

Thank you for considering UFED's comments during this week's legislative hearing on SB 512.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Beck".

Paul Beck  
Director